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NEWS RELEASE

Governor Whitman to Visit Hopewell Park, Train Station and Farm; Sign Farmland Preservation Legislation

Gov. Christie Whitman will go to Hopewell Borough tomorrow to highlight open space and historic preservation and sign legislation making it easier for local governments to fund farmland preservation projects.

At Hopewell Park, the Governor will sign A-1768 which allows state and local governments to purchase farmland development easements through installment purchase agreements. Currently, when purchasing development easements, government bodies must set aside in reserve the entire purchase price in the first year. The new law will allow the money to be set aside year-to-year.

Gov. Whitman will also visit the Hopewell Train Station, which is currently undergoing a renovation. In November, voters decided overwhelmingly to dedicate \$98 million each year for open space and historic preservation.